(c) There are 24 complaint boxes fixed in different areas of hospital (OPD and inpatient areas) to enable the public to register any complaint of doctors and hospital administration. In order to have an objective assessment/inquiry of the complaints of negligence on the part of doctors and staff during the management of the patients at AIIMS, all the original medical records of the relevant complaints of negligence on the part of doctors are preserved/kept in safe custody for scrutiny and verification of the inquiry committee, wherever necessary. AIIMS hospital has got a Casualty Death Review Committee under the Chairmanship of a senior Faculty member. The Committee reviews all the death cases which occur in the casuality and inquire into the circumstances for such deaths which could be attributed to AIIMS hospital.

Diploma in Homoeopathic Pharmacy

492. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government wants to help Homoeopathy Pharmacists to acquire knowledge to identify, prepare, standardize, store and dispense medicines and also equip them with various laws and regulations pertaining to the system; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in considering to start Diploma in Homoeopathic Pharmacy and to establish Homoeopathic Pharmacy Council for registration and institutions for education for Homoeopathic Pharmacists in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the growing demand of Homoeopathic Pharmacy education in the country and the need to regulate such education. Steps have already been taken to set up a regulatory mechanism for pharmacy education in Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy.

Post of DCGI

493. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that post of DCGI is still on *ad hoc* basis; and

(b) if so, by when Government would appoint a regular person for this important post?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The post of DCGI was upgraded. The upgraded post will be filled up on regular basis after the amendment of the Recruitment Rules for this post is completed. Pending this, the work of the post of DCGI is being looked after by the senior most officer in the hierarchy on current charge basis.

Vascular disease

494. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than one and half million people in the country are suffering from vascular diseases such as brain and leg strokes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that although the cases of these diseases are on the increase, the vascular surgeons are rarely available in the hospitals; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to appoint more vascular surgeons in various Government hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA) : (a) and (b) The epidemiological studies on stroke carried out in the country indicate a prevalence rate of over 4.4 per million in the country.

Strokes account for 0.9% to 4.5% of total medical admissions and 9.2 to 30% of admissions in neurological units. As seen in Western countries, most strokes in India are ischemic (57.3 to 89.7%), the remaining being hemorrhagic. Most studies show an increase in prevalence with age and male preponderance.

An increased proportion of strokes in the young (those less than 40 years) has been observed in India, ranging from18.8 to 32.0% in the different studies. This has been attributed to several factors which include:

- Younger population;
- Greater incidence of rheumatic heart disease;